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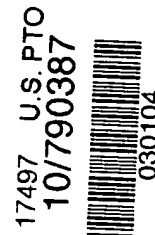
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Reply To: Tampa Office

March 1, 2004



Mail Stop: **Patent Application**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Re: New U.S. Patent Application of Wolfgang BECKER, Markus BECK,  
Klaus GOTH, Mike PAELMER, Claus-Dieter REINIGER and  
Daniel ZAUNER**

**Entitled: PROCESS FOR LASER BEAM WELDING WITH REDUCED  
FORMATION OF END CRATERS**

Attorney Ref: 3926.071

Customer Number: 000041288

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including the German language specification, claims, abstract, English language translation and Preliminary Amendment. The Declaration and Power of Attorney and certified copy of the priority document will be filed at a later time.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims .....	<u>19</u> - <u>20</u> = <u>  </u> x \$18 = \$
Independent Claims .....	<u>  2</u> - <u>  3</u> = <u>  </u> x \$86 = \$
Base Fee .....	\$ 770.00
Declaration Late Filing Fee.....	\$ 130.00
<b>TOTAL FILING FEE .....</b>	<b>\$ 900.00</b>

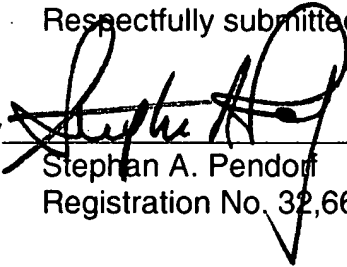
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March 1, 2004  
Page 2

A check for the statutory filing fee of \$900.00 is attached. Please charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0877. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and §1.17, which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to said Account.

Priority is claimed from February 28, 2003, based on German Patent Application No. 103 09 159.9.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Stephan A. Pendorf  
Registration No. 32,665

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Dated: **March 1, 2004**

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EV392067891US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **March 1, 2004**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing cover letter including the German language specification, claims, abstract, English language translation, Preliminary Amendment and stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: **ATTN: Mail Stop: Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

  
Bonnie L. Horst